watershed approach aiming at augmentation of production and productivity, meeting basic needs of forest produce, minimizing ecological degradation and sustainable management of land, water and bio-diversity and linking up of food for work programme.

(c) The major elements as referred to above have been internalized in the afforestation programme of the Ministry of Environment and Forests for the Tenth Plan.

Food for lions

1814. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether sterilization of lions has been suggested to contain their population in view of resource crunch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to provide financial assistance out of the funds allocated for the The Lion Project to provide food for lions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The zoos have been asked to adopt population control measures for hybrid lions as these are of mixed origin and, therefore, have no conservation value. However, breeding of Asiatic Lions of pure origin is encouraged.

(c) and (d) No Sir. Government of India does not provide funds for feed of animals.

Death of leopards in Uttaranchal

1815. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six leopards died in various parts of Uttaranchal in the last one and a half years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that wildlife is falling prey to hunger in the State; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) As reported by the State Government 64 cases of leopard deaths have been recorded in Uttaranchal since November, 2000 for various reasons *i.e.* poaching, accidents involving motor vehicles, natural deaths, including those killed in self defence. etc.

(c) and (d) Due to inadequate prey base, leopards are tempted to resort to killing of livestock and sometimes human beings. This has exposed leopards to retaliatory killings. Central Government provides 100% funding to the State Governments for making *ex-gratia* payment in cases of human death and permanent incapacitation and compensation for live stock killed by the leopard.

Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary as Project Tiger Reserve

1816. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Government has submitted a detailed proposal for inclusion of Sunabeda wildife Sanctuary as a Project Tiger Reserve;

(b) if so, the progress in the matter, so far; and

(c) by when a decision in the matter is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Although no formal proposal for declaring Sunabeda Wildlife Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve has been received, letters to this effect have been received from the Chief Wildlife Warden of the State.

(b) and (c) Declaration of any areas as a Tiger Reserve needs indepth assessment of the area with regard to the status of *flora and fauna*, potential threats and possibilities of mitigating the threats. This process can start in respect of Sunabeda Sanctuary only after the receipt of detailed proposals.